

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

I view this proposal as an assault on fair use. Regardless of stated intent, my opinion is that the MPAA and RIAA strive to suppress fair use of copyrighted media as far as possible solely for the financial benefit of their respective members.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

I am concerned that the implementation of this proposal will interfere with the legitimate transmission of digital content within home users digital recording and display systems.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I am steadfastly opposed to any proposal that obsoletes any existing electronic equipment. Rulemaking should not force consumers to purchase new equipment in order to appease the special interests of the MPAA and RIAA.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

As a participant in the development of software defined radio technologies, I am extremely concerned about the limits on innovation and competition that this rulemaking may impose.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

My belief is that the ultimate cost impact on consumer electronics equipment will be minimal. Complying with a broadcast restriction flag will be a matter of programming the device with the desired behavior. However, as I stated above, this rulemaking should not require the purchase of new equipment solely to allow reception of broadcast flagged content.

Other Comments:

The FCC is charged with the administration of a public trust, and its actions should benefit the public. This proposed rulemaking, in my view, does not benefit the public.

While I am opposed to the theft of intellectual property in any fashion, this proposed solution has too high of a cost to the American public. The RIAA and MPAA should instead work toward greater enforcement of existing legislation protecting the intellectual property of their members.